

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Original): A method in a primary data processing system for managing a catalog, the method comprising:

 sending a catalog and user information to a plurality of secondary data processing systems located in a network data processing system;

 allocating inventory associated with the catalog to the plurality of secondary data processing systems;

 receiving an order from one of the plurality of secondary data processing systems; and

 processing the order, in response to receiving the order.

2. (Original): The method of claim 1 further comprising:

 sending an update to the catalog to the plurality of secondary data processing systems.

3. (Original): The method of claim 1 further comprising:

 receiving a request to reallocate the inventory from a particular secondary data processing system within the plurality of secondary data processing systems;

 identifying a reallocation of the inventory in response to receiving the request; and

 sending messages to each secondary data processing system involved in the reallocation of the inventory.

4. (Original): The method of claim 3, wherein the request to allocate the inventory is received from the particular secondary data processing system upon a detection of a condition by the secondary data processing system.

~~5. (Original): The method of claim 4, wherein the condition is a threshold.~~

6. (Original): The method of claim 1 further comprising:

periodically obtaining necessary shopping cart data from at least one secondary data processing system within the plurality of secondary data processing systems; and forwarding the necessary shopping cart data to other secondary data processing systems within the plurality of secondary data processing systems.

7. (Currently Amended): The method of claim [[4]] 6, wherein a secondary data processing system within the plurality of secondary data processing systems periodically obtains necessary shopping cart data from a particular secondary data processing system within a plurality of secondary data processing systems; and forwards the necessary shopping cart data to other secondary data processing systems within the plurality of secondary data processing systems.

[[9]] 8. (Currently Amended/Renumbered): The method of claim 1, wherein the catalog is sent in a markup language document.

[[10]] 9. (Currently Amended/Renumbered): The method of claim [[9]] 8, wherein the markup language is extensible markup language.

[[11]] 10. (Currently Amended/Renumbered): The method of claim 1 further comprising:
detecting a presence of another secondary data processing system; and
sending the catalog to the another secondary data processing system in response to detecting the presence.

[[12]] 11. (Currently Amended/Renumbered): The method of claim 1, wherein the plurality of secondary data processing systems are located within a network data processing system.

[[13]] 12. (Currently Amended/Renumbered): The method of claim [[12]] 11, wherein the network data processing system is at least one of a wide area network, an intranet, and the Internet.

[[14]] 13. (Currently Amended/Renumbered): The method of claim 1, wherein the catalog is a first catalog, the inventory is a first inventory, and further comprising:
 sending a second catalog to a second plurality of secondary data processing systems; and
 allocating the second inventory to be associated with the second catalog to the second plurality of secondary data processing systems.

[[15]] 14. (Currently Amended/Renumbered): The method of claim [[14]] 13, wherein a particular item is present in the first catalog and the second catalog.

[[16]] 15. (Currently Amended/Renumbered): The method of claim [[14]] 13, wherein a selected secondary server is part of the first plurality of secondary servers and the second plurality of secondary servers.

[[17]] 16. (Withdrawn/Renumbered): A system for processing commercial transactions of a user over a large geographic area comprising:

- a network;
- a primary computing node connected to the network;
- a plurality of secondary computing nodes connected to the network, each of the plurality of secondary computing nodes being located at a set of geographic sites;
- a plurality of product inventories, each of the plurality of product inventories being associated with one of the plurality of geographic sites; and
- a catalog of products, wherein the catalog identifies the plurality of product inventories,

 wherein the primary computing node notifies the plurality of secondary computing nodes of updates to the catalog, a user contacts a first node from the plurality of secondary computing nodes, the user places a product order with the first node, the first node forwards the order to the primary computing node, and the order is processed by the primary computing node.

[[18]] 17. (Withdrawn/Renumbered): The system of claim [[17]] 16, wherein the primary computing node notifies the plurality of secondary computing nodes of the updates to the catalog by sending catalog data encoded in extensible markup language.

[[19]] 18. (Withdrawn/Renumbered): The system of claim [[17]] 16, wherein the user is directed to the first node according to a load-balancing scheme.

[[20]] 19. (Withdrawn/Renumbered): The system of claim [[17]] 16 wherein the primary computing node:

periodically obtains necessary shopping cart data from at least one secondary data processing system within the plurality of secondary data processing systems to primary data processing system; and

forwards the necessary shopping cart data to other secondary data processing systems within the plurality of secondary data processing systems.

[[21]] 20. (Withdrawn/Renumbered): The system of claim [[19]] 18, wherein the load-balancing scheme is round-robin routing.

[[22]] 21. (Withdrawn/Renumbered): The system of claim [[19]] 18, wherein the load-balancing scheme is to direct the user to one of a subset of the plurality of secondary computing nodes under normal operation and to direct the user to one of the entire plurality of secondary computing nodes when the system is under heavy load or when one of the plurality of secondary computing nodes has failed.

[[23]] 22. (Withdrawn/Renumbered): The system of claim [[17]] 16, wherein the first node sends a request to the primary computing node to change an inventory for the first node.

[[24]] 23. (Withdrawn/Renumbered): The system of claim [[17]] 16, wherein the user is directed towards the first node by a load balancing node implementing a load balancing

scheme, wherein the load balancing node receives all user requests directed towards the system.

[[25]] 24. (Withdrawn/Renumbered): The system of claim [[17]] 16, wherein the primary computing node dynamically propagates changes to the catalog to the plurality of secondary computing nodes.

[[26]] 25. (Withdrawn/Renumbered): The system of claim [[17]] 16, wherein the primary computing node is a first primary computing node and further comprising a second primary computing node.

[[27]] 26. (Withdrawn/Renumbered): The system of claim [[26]] 25, wherein the catalog is a first catalog, the first primary computing node manages the first catalog, and the second primary computing node manages a second catalog.

[[28]] 27. (Withdrawn/Renumbered): The system of claim [[17]] 16, wherein orders are processed synchronously by the primary server.

[[29]] 28. (Withdrawn/Renumbered): The system of claim [[17]] 16, wherein the order is received at the first node and forwarded to the primary computing node from the first computing node.

[[30]] 29. (Currently Amended/Renumbered): A system for processing commercial transactions of a user over a large geographic area comprising:

- a network;
- a primary computing node connected to the network;
- a plurality of secondary computing nodes connected to the network, each of the plurality of secondary computing nodes being located at a set of geographic sites;
- a plurality of product inventories, each of the plurality of product inventories being associated with one of the plurality of geographic sites; and

a catalog of products, wherein the catalog identifies the plurality of product inventories,

wherein the primary computing node notifies the plurality of secondary computing nodes of updates to the catalog, a user contacts a first node from the plurality of secondary computing nodes, the user places a product order with the first node, the first node forwards the order to a selected node to process the order based on selected criteria.

[[31]] 30. (Currently Amended/Renumbered): The system of claim [[30]] 29, wherein the selected criteria is at least one of a geographic proximity, and a number of ordered items.

[[32]] 31. (Currently Amended/Renumbered): The system of claim [[30]] 29, wherein the selected node is selected from one of the primary computing node and one of the plurality of secondary computing nodes.

[[33]] 32. (Currently Amended/Renumbered): A data processing system for managing a catalog, the data processing system comprising:

sending means for sending a catalog and user information to a plurality of secondary data processing systems located in a network data processing system;

allocating means for allocating inventory associated with the catalog to the plurality of secondary data processing systems;

receiving means for receiving an order from one of the plurality of secondary data processing systems; and

processing means for processing the order, in response to receiving the order.

[[34]] 33. (Currently Amended/Renumbered): The data processing system of claim [[33]] 32, wherein the sending means is a first sending means and further comprising:

second sending means for sending an update to the catalog to the plurality of secondary data processing systems.

[[35]] 34. (Currently Amended/Renumbered): The data processing system of claim [[33]] 32, wherein the receiving means is a first receiving means, the sending means is a first sending means and further comprising:

second receiving means for receiving a request to reallocate the inventory from a particular secondary data processing system within the plurality of secondary data processing systems;

identifying means for identifying a reallocation of the inventory in response to receiving the request; and

third sending means for sending messages to each secondary data processing system involved in the reallocation of the inventory.

[[36]] 35. (Currently Amended/Renumbered): The data processing system of claim [[35]] 34, wherein the request to allocate the inventory is received from the particular secondary data processing system upon a detection of a condition by the secondary data processing system.

[[37]] 36. (Currently Amended/Renumbered): The data processing system of claim [[36]] 35, wherein the condition is a threshold.

[[38]] 37. (Currently Amended/Renumbered): The data processing system of claim [[33]] 32 further comprising:

obtaining means for periodically obtaining necessary shopping cart data from at least one secondary data processing system within the plurality of secondary data processing systems to primary data processing system; and

forwarding means for forwarding the necessary shopping cart data to other secondary data processing systems within the plurality of secondary data processing systems.

[[39]] 38. (Currently Amended/Renumbered): The data processing system of claim [[38]] 37, wherein a secondary data processing system within the plurality of secondary data processing systems periodically obtains necessary shopping cart data from a

particular secondary data processing system within a plurality of secondary data processing systems; and forwards the necessary shopping cart data to other secondary data processing systems within the plurality of secondary data processing systems.

[[40]] 39. (Currently Amended/Renumbered): The data processing system of claim [[33]] 32, wherein the catalog is sent in a markup language document.

[[41]] 40. (Currently Amended/Renumbered): The data processing system of claim [[33]] 32, wherein the markup language is extensible markup language.

[[42]] 41. (Currently Amended/Renumbered): The data processing system of claim [[33]] 32, wherein the sending means is a first sending means and further comprising:
detecting means for detecting a presence of another secondary data processing system; and

fourth sending means for sending the catalog to the another secondary data processing system in response to detecting the presence.

[[43]] 42. (Currently Amended/Renumbered): The data processing system of claim [[33]] 32, wherein the plurality of secondary data processing systems are located within a network data processing system.

[[44]] 43. (Currently Amended/Renumbered): The data processing system of claim [[43]] 42, wherein the network data processing system is at least one of a wide area network, an intranet, and an Internet.

[[45]] 44. (Currently Amended/Renumbered): The data processing system of claim [[33]] 32, wherein the catalog is a first catalog, the inventory is a first inventory, the sending means is a first sending means, the allocating means is a first allocating means and further comprising:

fifth sending means for sending a second catalog to a second plurality of secondary data processing systems; and

second allocating means for allocating the second inventory to associated with the second catalog to the second plurality of secondary data processing systems.

[[46]] 45. (Currently Amended/Renumbered): The data processing system of claim [[45]] 44, wherein a particular item is present in the first catalog and the second catalog.

[[47]] 46. (Currently Amended/Renumbered): The data processing system of claim [[45]] 44, wherein a selected secondary server is part of the first plurality of secondary servers and the second plurality of secondary servers.

[[48]] 47. (Currently Amended/Renumbered): A computer program product in a computer readable medium for managing a catalog, the computer program product comprising:

- first instructions for sending a catalog and user information to a plurality of secondary data processing systems located in a network data processing system;
- second instructions for allocating inventory associated with the catalog to the plurality of secondary data processing systems;
- third instructions for receiving an order from one of the plurality of secondary data processing systems; and
- fourth instructions for processing the order, in response to receiving the order.

[[49]] 48. (Currently Amended/Renumbered): The computer program product of claim [[48]] 47 further comprising:

- fifth instructions for sending an update to the catalog to the plurality of secondary data processing systems.

[[50]] 49. (Currently Amended/Renumbered): The computer program product of claim [[48]] 47 further comprising:

- fifth instructions for receiving a request to reallocate the inventory from a particular secondary data processing system within the plurality of secondary data processing systems;

sixth instructions for identifying a reallocation of the inventory in response to receiving the request; and

seventh instructions for sending messages to each secondary data processing system involved in the reallocation of the inventory.

[[51]] 50. (Currently Amended/Renumbered): The computer program product of claim [[50]] 49, wherein the request to allocate the inventory is received from the particular secondary data processing system upon a detection of a condition by the secondary data processing system.

[[52]] 51. (Currently Amended/Renumbered): The computer program product of claim [[51]] 50, wherein the condition is a threshold.

[[53]] 52. (Currently Amended/Renumbered): The computer program product of claim [[48]] 47 further comprising:

fifth instructions for periodically obtaining necessary shopping cart data from at least one secondary data processing system within the plurality of secondary data processing systems to primary data processing system; and

sixth instructions for forwarding the necessary shopping cart data to other secondary data processing systems within the plurality of secondary data processing systems.

[[54]] 53. (Currently Amended/Renumbered): The computer program product of claim [[53]] 52, wherein a secondary data processing system within the plurality of secondary data processing systems periodically obtains necessary shopping cart data from a particular secondary data processing system within a plurality of secondary data processing systems; and forwards the necessary shopping cart data to other secondary data processing systems within the plurality of secondary data processing systems.

[[55]] 54. (Currently Amended/Renumbered): The computer program product of claim [[48]] 47, wherein the catalog is sent in a markup language document.

[[56]] 55. (Currently Amended/Renumbered): The computer program product of claim [[55]] 54, wherein the markup language is extensible markup language.

[[58]] 56. (Currently Amended/Renumbered): The data processing system of claim [[48]] 47 further comprising:

fifth instructions for detecting a presence of another secondary data processing system; and

sixth instructions for sending the catalog to the another secondary data processing system in response to detecting the presence.

[[59]] 57. (Currently Amended/Renumbered): The computer program product of claim [[48]] 47, wherein the plurality of secondary data processing systems are located within a network data processing system.

[[60]] 58. (Currently Amended/Renumbered): The computer program product of claim [[59]] 57, wherein the network data processing system is at least one of a wide area network, an intranet, and an Internet.

[[61]] 59. (Currently Amended/Renumbered): The computer program product of claim [[48]] 47, wherein the catalog is a first catalog, the inventory is a first inventory, and further comprising:

fifth instructions for sending a second catalog to a second plurality of secondary data processing systems; and

sixth instructions for allocating the second inventory to associated with the second catalog to the second plurality of secondary data processing systems.

[[62]] 60. (Currently Amended/Renumbered): The computer program product of claim [[61]] 59, wherein a particular item is present in the first catalog and the second catalog.

[[63]] 61. (Currently Amended/Renumbered): The computer program product of claim [[61]] 59, wherein a selected secondary server is part of the first plurality of secondary servers and the second plurality of secondary servers.

[[64]] 62. (Withdrawn/Renumbered): A data processing system comprising:

- a bus system;
- a communications unit connected to the bus system;
- a memory connected to the bus system, wherein the memory includes a set of instructions; and
- a processing unit connected to the bus system, wherein the processing unit executes the set of instructions to send a catalog to a plurality of secondary data processing systems located in a network data processing system; allocate inventory associated with the catalog to the plurality of secondary data processing systems; receive an order from one of the plurality of secondary data processing systems; and process the order, in response to receiving the order.

[[65]] 63. (Withdrawn/Renumbered): The data processing system of claim [[64]] 62, wherein the processor further executes the set of instructions to send an update to the catalog to the plurality of secondary data processing systems.

[[66]] 64. (Withdrawn/Renumbered): The data processing system of claim [[64]] 62, wherein the processor further executes the set of instructions to receive a request to reallocate the inventory from a particular secondary data processing system within the plurality of secondary data processing systems; identify a reallocation of the inventory in response to receiving the request; and send messages to each secondary data processing system involved in the reallocation of the inventory.

[[67]] 65. (Withdrawn/Renumbered): The data processing system of claim [[64]] 62 wherein the processor further executes the set of instructions to periodically obtain necessary shopping cart data from at least one secondary data processing system within the plurality of secondary data processing systems to primary data processing system; and

forwards the necessary shopping cart data to other secondary data processing systems within the plurality of secondary data processing systems.

[[68]] 66. (Withdrawn/Renumbered): The data processing system of claim [[64]] 62, wherein the catalog is sent in a markup language document.

[[69]] 67. (Withdrawn/Renumbered): The data processing system of claim [[68]] 66, wherein the markup language is extensible markup language.

[[70]] 68. (Withdrawn/Renumbered): The data processing system of claim [[64]] 62, wherein the processor further executes the set of instructions to detect a presence of another secondary data processing system;
and send the catalog to the another secondary data processing system in response to detecting the presence.

[[71]] 69. (Withdrawn/Renumbered): The data processing system of claim [[64]] 62, wherein the plurality of secondary data processing systems are located within a network data processing system.

[[72]] 70. (Withdrawn/Renumbered): The data processing system of claim [[71]] 69, wherein the network data processing system is at least one of a wide area network, an intranet, and an Internet.

[[73]] 71. (Withdrawn/Renumbered): The data processing system of claim [[64]] 62, wherein the catalog is a first catalog, the inventory is a first inventory and the processor further executes the set of instructions to send a second catalog to a second plurality of secondary data processing systems; and allocate the second inventory to associated with the second catalog to the second plurality of secondary data processing systems.

[[74]] 72. (Withdrawn/Renumbered): The data processing system of claim [[73]] 71, wherein a particular item is present in the first catalog and the second catalog.

[[75]] 73. (Withdrawn/Renumbered): The data processing system of claim [[73]] 71, wherein a selected secondary server is part of the first plurality of secondary servers and the second plurality of secondary servers.